

youth in learning Latin and Greek although it is certain that few of them will pursue in after life the study of languages which are not more flexible or expressive than French and German. and are of no practical usefulness to men of affairs. So also in the schooling of the masses too much stress has been laid upon the memorizing of knowledge and too little upon the training of the mental faculties. It is necessary to memorize : an abundance of word-symbols is needed for expression. But man has risen above the brutes by his discernment of properties. by the exercise of his will and by the possession of useful habits. and if education were directed more fully to the strengthening of these impulses. it might have greater effect in raising the level of character and intelligence. Habits, it should be explained. include habits of mind—that is to say beliefs and ideas : these affect very powerfully the drift of society. and an agnostic philosopher may very well believe that it would be an evil day for England were religious instruction excluded from the influences which shape the minds of the young.

It is tempting to dilate upon the contrast between riches and poverty as an evil feature of modern times : it is indeed amazing that members of the same social organism should. some. have more than they can waste in the most extravagant luxury and others. less than they require

for the bare necessities of life. But this is as ancient as human aggressiveness, and indeed present day conditions are infinitely to be preferred to those of classical times when half the population was bound in slavery. Speaking

¶ The practising of volition is a leading feature of the Montessori system of education. Children select their own tasks, and accordingly guide their studies by choice, not by imitation.